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United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC
ETHICS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
F Schmaler
REVIEWED June 8, 1981 DATE 4/10/87
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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ACTION
is assigned to
NEA

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I want to share with you some of my thoughts on the proposed sale of the AWAC aircraft to Saudi Arabia, concerning how to counteract the "offensive weapon" criticism being used by those who oppose the sale.

Briefly: (1) In lieu of an outright sale, the United States should lease the aircraft to Saudi Arabia over a specified period of time; (2) the contract would require that the aircraft be manned and maintained by American personnel; and (3) the lease would include depreciation, personnel, etc., in the contract.

This approach would (a) mitigate both the criticisms that the Saudis could use the AWAC as an offensive weapon against the State of Israel; (b) insure that sensitive data and technology contained in AWAC would not fall into hostile hands; and (c) insure that only defensive data be given to Saudi Arabia.

I would appreciate hearing from you and your advisors on this approach. If there is anything I can do to be of assistance in the furtherance of your foreign policy with which I agree, please call.

Sincerely,

Mark Mattingly

MM:lt

cc: Honorable Howard Baker
Honorable Alexander Haig
Mr. James Baker, III
Mr. Powell Moore
Mr. Richard Allen

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June 18, 1981

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Dear Mack:

On behalf of the President, I would like to thank you for your June 8 letter in which you shared your thoughts on the proposed sale of the AWAC aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

Please know that I appreciate your interest in outlining provisions which you feel may help counter some of the criticism which is being voiced by opponents of this sale. Also, I have shared your suggestions on this matter with the President's foreign policy advisers, and asked that they thoroughly review the points you raised.

Thanks again for the concern which prompted you to write, and for your offer to be of assistance in this matter.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Mack Mattingly
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

MLF:CMP:KIR:kir

cc: w/copy of inc to NSC Secretariat - for DRAFT response

cc: Powell Moore - FYI

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